IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6.

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. A damper comprising:

a rotatable shaft member having a shaft and wings formed on an outer periphery of the shaft;

a cylindrical casing incorporating said shaft member;

a plurality of oil chambers defined between the outer periphery of said shaft member and an inner periphery of said casing;

at least one protrusion provided on the inner periphery of said casing, said at least one protrusion structured and arranged so that it is slides over an outer periphery of said shaft as said rotatable shaft member rotates; and

at least one communication path having a first open end that communicates with one of said plurality of oil chambers and a second open end that communicates with another one of said plurality of oil chambers, said communication path passing through said shaft to enable communication between two adjacent oil chambers of said plurality of oil chambers,

wherein said at least one protrusion is structured and arranged so that as said rotatable shaft member rotates said protrusions closes one of said first and second open ends of said communication path, within a relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

2. The damper according to claim 1 wherein one of said first and second open ends of said communication path is formed at a position allowing the one opening to remain in an open position relative to an oil chamber at all times within the relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

3. The damper according to claim 1 wherein said at least one protrusion provided on said casing comprises a first and second protrusion, said first and second protrusion each being structured and arranged to independently close a respective one of said first and second open ends of said communication path within the relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

4. The damper according to claim 1 wherein said at least one protrusion provided on said casing closes one of said first and second open ends of said communication path at either one or both of the starting and ending points of a relative rotation of said shaft member.

Marked-up version of claims as amended herein.

1. A damper comprising:

a rotatable shaft member having a shaft and wings formed on [the] an outer periphery of the shaft;

a cylindrical casing [relative-rotatably] incorporating said shaft member;

[an] a plurality of oil [chamber] chambers [provided] defined between the outer periphery of said shaft member and [the] an inner periphery of said casing;

[a] at least one protrusion provided on the inner periphery of said casing, [and slidable on the] said at least one protrusion structured and arranged so that it is slides over an outer periphery of said shaft as said rotatable shaft member rotates; and

[a communicating path passed] at least one communication path having a first open end that communicates with one of said plurality of oil chambers and a second open end that communicates with another one of said plurality of oil chambers, said communication path passing through said shaft to [make the communication between a pair of the adjacent oil chambers out of all the oil chambers individually surrounded by said wings and said protrusions] enable communication between two adjacent oil chambers of said plurality of oil chambers, [and having at least one of openings which is to be closed by said protrusion, provided on said casing, within a relative-rotating range of said shaft member]

wherein said at least one protrusion is structured and arranged so that as said rotatable shaft member rotates said protrusions closes one of said first and second open ends of said communication path, within a relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

2. The damper according to claim 1 wherein one of [the openings of said communicating path] said first and second open ends of said communication path is formed at a position allowing the one opening to [open toward said] remain in an open position relative to an oil chamber at all times within the relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

3. The damper according to claim 1 wherein said [protrusions] at least one protrusion provided on said casing comprises a first and second protrusion, said first and second protrusion each being structured and arranged to independently close a respective one of said [openings of both ends] first and second open ends of said [communicating] communication path within the relative-rotating range of said shaft member.

4. The damper according to claim 1 wherein said [protrusion] at least one protrusion provided on said casing closes [said opening] one of said first and second open ends of said [communicating] communication path at either one or both of the starting and ending points of a relative rotation of said shaft member.